REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 28, 2006. Claims 6 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 30 and 32 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 6, 16, 26 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,495,561 (Holt). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 6 is directed to an information processing apparatus for having a printer driver which generates print data to be printed at a printing apparatus using a plurality of pages of drawing data input from an application. The apparatus includes entry means for entering at least one of information indicating the number of division to divide an output sheet and output sheet information about an output sheet to be used for printing via a setting screen of a printer driver, in executing N-page printing in which drawing data of N pages ($N > 1$, N is an integer) is printed on one print sheet; physical N-page printing arranging means for dividing a physical page into N areas and for arranging the drawing data of each page at a center of each of equal N-divided areas of the physical page, wherein, if a physical sheet of the physical page is cut into N pieces of sheet, the print result of each page is arranged at the center of one piece of cut sheet; printable area N-page printing arranging means for dividing a printable area, which is obtained by subtracting a print margin from the physical page, into N printable areas and for arranging the drawing data of each page in each of equal N-divided printable areas of the printable area on the physical page, wherein the

print results of the drawing data of each page in printing N pages are arranged toward the center of the physical sheet; determining means for determining which one of the physical N-page printing arranging means and the printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages on the basis of at least one of the information indicating the number of division and output sheet information entered via the setting screen of the printer driver by the entry means, in a case where a print request occurs for the designation of N-page printing; and generation means for generating the print data by executing the determined one of the physical N-page printing arranging means and the printable region N-page printing arranging means.

Claim 6 features determining an arranging processing to be executed between two kinds of arranging processing used for N-page printing of "physical N-page printing arrangement" and "printable region N-page printing arrangement" on the basis of at least one of information indicating the number of division and output sheet information entered via a setting screen of a printer driver. Thus, the information processing apparatus of Claim 6 uses at least one of information indicating the number of division and output sheet information, which are requisite information for executing N-up printing, to determine an appropriate arranging processing to be executed. In this manner, the invention of Claim 6 can bring out an effect characteristic to the present invention of improving the convenience for a user, because an appropriate arranging processing is determined on the basis of the entered information even though a user does not specify an appropriate arranging processing for each layout.

In contrast, Holt discloses an object-oriented printing interface and shows a plurality of layouts in Figs. 14A, 14B, and 14C. While Holt shows an output of an n-up

pagination model in Fig. 14C only, Holt is silent on a plurality of N-page printing arranging means. Moreover, Holt is silent on "determining means for determining which one of the physical N-page printing arranging means and the printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages on the basis of at least one of the information indicating the number of division and output sheet information entered via the setting screen of the printer driver by the entry means, in a case where a print request occurs for the designation of N-page printing." While Holt discloses determining page coordinates as specified by an application program, Holt is silent about determining on the basis of at least one of information indicating the number of division and output sheet information entered via a setting screen of a printer driver.

Furthermore, Holt does not suggest the "determining means" of Claim 6. For instance, when 4-in-1 printing is executed, the determining means of Claim 6 determines an appropriate arranging processing on the basis of at least one of information indicating the number of division and output sheet information even though a user does not specify which one of "physical N-page printing arranging means" and "printable region N-page printing arranging means" is an appropriate arranging processing for 4-in-1 printing, and thus the convenience for a user can be improved.

However, as disclosed in Holt, a user has to specify an appropriate arranging processing for each layout, such as appropriate arranging processing for 4-in-1 printing, an appropriate arranging processing for regular sheets, etc. This is because the printing interface has object programs corresponding to each layout (604-610 in Fig. 6) in order to output the layouts shown in Figs. 14A, 14B, and 14C, and a user has to select an object program corresponding to a desired layout.

As described above, the "determining means" in Claim 6 can bring out an effect characteristic to the present invention of improving the convenience for a user, because an appropriate arranging processing is determined on the basis of the entered information even though the user does not specify an appropriate arranging processing for each layout.

Therefore, Holt does not teach or suggest the features of Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 6 as amended is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claims 16, 26, and 32 are directed to a method, printing control program, and computer-readable storage medium substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 16, 26, and 32 as amended are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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